

10/552692

REPLY

1005 Rec'd PCT/PTO 11 OCT 2005

To: Examiner of the Patent Office

1. Identification of the International Application

PCT/JP2004/005169

2. Applicant

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4. Date of Notification: 13.07.2004

請求書

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件 名 国際出願米国移行
名 称 スピーカとマイクロフォン間の音
波伝搬時間測定方法およびその装置
貴社整理番号
弊所整理番号 03P496US/YMD

上記の件につきご請求申し上げます。

課税対象額(特許事務料金)	単 価	数 量	金 額
国内移行	130,000	1	130,000
IDS	10,000	1	10,000
公報(英文抄録)取寄	2,000	1	2,000
コピー・通信費	7,710	1	7,710
小 計	A		149,710
消費税	B		7,485

非課税対象額			
現地代理人費用(国内移行)			237,105
小 計	C		237,105

合計金額 A+B+C	¥ 394,300	源泉税	¥ 14,971	= 差引 御請求額	¥ 379,329-
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※ 備考 US\$=¥111.33 (2005.9.8 付為替レート)

●振込先

	〔普 通〕	〔当 座〕
銀行名	三井住友銀行 神戸営業部	三井住友銀行 三宮支店
口座番号	3 5 2 3 3 5 0	2 3 1 4 7 0
名 義	有古特許事務所 角田嘉宏	(入 金 者)

5. CONTENT OF WRITTEN ANSWER

(1) The written opinion of the International Searching Authority mailed on 2004 July 20 states that the inventions of Claims 1 and 8 of this application are considered to be obvious over the following documents:

Reference 1: JP 2000 – 90272 A

Reference 2: JP 5-506369 A

Reference 3: JP 2003-52416 A

Reference 4: JP 2002 – 177015 A

Also, the invention of Claim 2 of this application is considered to be obvious over References 1 to 4 listed above and Reference 5 (JP 61-99801 A).

Also, the invention of Claims 3 to 5 of this application are considered to be obvious over References 1 to 5 listed above.

Also, the inventions of Claims 6 and 7 of this application are considered to be obvious over References 1 to 5 listed above and Reference 6 (JP 2002 - 199905 A).

Also, the invention of Claim 9 of this application is considered to be obvious over References 1 to 4 listed above.

Also, the inventions of Claims 10 to 12 of this application are considered to be obvious over References 1 to 4 listed above and Reference 7 (JP 8 - 66205 A) and Reference 8 (JP Japanese Utility Model Application No. 57-162656).

(2) INVENTION OF PRESENT APPLICATION

The present application has been made, focusing attention on the fact that there is a difficulty in selecting an appropriate shoe shape for a customer based on only data such as foot length, foot girth, foot width, planter arch, and foot curvature. In short, it is difficult to select a shoe shape that fits a customer from a plurality of shoe shapes prepared beforehand, based on only the above data.

The present application is directed to overcoming the foregoing problem. The present application selects a shoe shape, taking account of the features of the first and second toes of the customer and is characterized by shoe shape selection based on a plurality of data items about the customer, which include the difference between the lengths of the first and second toes of the foot, the

first toe height ratio and the fit property which are parameters relating the first and second toes.

Finding that when selecting a shoe shape, an appropriate shoe shape could be statistically determined based on the difference in length and height between the first and second toes of a foot, the applicant came to the conclusion that the method of the present application could provide a higher degree of satisfaction to the customer than the shoe shape selection based on only parameters which did not include the difference in length and height between the first and second toes. The invention of the present application has been made based on such knowledge.

(3) INVENTIONS OF CITED REFERENCES

① INVENTION OF CITED REFERENCE 1

The invention of Cited Reference 1 is associated with a method of selecting a shoe type based on data on the tiptoe portion, central portion and heel portion of a foot. It performs clustering of a group of data by use of a statistical clustering method as well as "fuzzy" and stores such data as a model. Based on this model, a shoe type that fits the size of a foot is selected, utilizing an educational and learning function such as neural networks.

② INVENTION OF CITED REFERENCE 2

The invention of Cited Reference 2 uses foot measurement data, customer identification data and customer reference data for data analysis to select a shoe type suited for the size of a foot.

③ INVENTION OF CITED REFERENCE 3

According to the invention of Cited Reference 3, female molds for forming lasts are made, using data on the foot shape of the customer. Then, the lasts are formed. The data on the foot shape used at that time are foot length, foot girth, foot width, the length of the inner planter arch, the length of the outer planter arch, heel width, first toe side angle, fifth toe side angle, foot height, first toe height, fifth toe height, external malleolus edge height, arch height, arch height ratio and heel angle.

④ INVENTION OF CITED REFERENCE 4

According to the invention of Cited Reference 4, the size of the lasts is determined and the lasts are designed, using data on foot size. In the

determination of the size of the lasts, the design can be adjusted by use of the design of the shoes to be produced, heel height, foot type (Egyptian Type, Greek Type, Hallux Valgus Type, Spread Foot Type, etc.) and others.

⑤ INVENTION OF CITED REFERENCE 5

According to the invention of Cited Reference 5, the main sizes of the interior of the shoes the customer got used to wear are measured and used as data for new shoes. The main sizes are foot length and foot girth. Cited Reference 5 states that there is a difficulty in adjustments such as making the entire length of a shoe 0 to 25 mm longer than the length of the foot and making the girth of the interior of a shoe several mm smaller than the girth of the foot, because they involve sensitive factors and therefore the fitter who makes such adjustments is required to have good skill.

⑥ INVENTION OF CITED REFERENCE 6

According to the invention of Cited Reference 6, customer's foot shape measurement data, test-fitted shoe files, test-fitted shoe models, correction data and last libraries are used for producing shoes that fit the foot shape of the customer. Herein, the correction data include the fit property, the customer's preference etc.

⑦ INVENTION OF CITED REFERENCE 7

According to the invention of Cited Reference 7, the angle (underfoot angle) α between the underfoot line L2* and central line L1 of a last and the angle β (instep ridge angle) between the ridge line L3 of the instep and the central line L1 of the last on a plane are respectively limited to a specified range to produce the last. The embodiment disclosed herein uses the oblique toe type.

(NOTE) underfoot line* = the line connecting the point of the last which corresponds to the fibular-side metatarsal point and the point of the last which corresponds to the tibial-side metatarsal point.

⑧ INVENTION OF CITED REFERENCE 8

According to the invention of Cited Reference 8, the tiptoe portion of a shoe is formed so as to correspond to the profile of the foot.

(4) COMPARISON OF PRESENT APPLICATION AGAINST CITED REFERENCES

① As understood from the above, Cited References 1 to 4 do not provide an explicit statement that the difference between the lengths of the first and second toes (i.e., first-second toe length difference) is utilized as data on the foot.

In contrast with this, the inventions of Claims 1 to 8 of the present application are characterized by utilization of the difference between the lengths of the first and second toes (i.e., first-second toe length difference). This makes it possible to select shoes which provide a high degree of satisfaction to the customer.

② Although Cited Reference 5 discloses a design for the interior of a shoe, which is larger or smaller than the actual size of the foot in terms of foot length and foot girth, no criteria for making it larger or smaller are disclosed.

In contrast with this, the invention of Claim 2 of the present application is characterized by determination of shoe length based on the difference between the lengths of the first and second toes. This makes it possible to select shoes which provide a high degree of satisfaction to the customer.

③ Cited Reference 3 discloses a technique for designing a shoe based on data including first toe height and fifth toe height. However, it does not pay attention to the first toe height ratio (i.e., the ratio of the height of the upper face of the first toe from the floor surface to the foot length).

In contrast with this, the inventions of Claims 3 to 5 of the present application utilize the difference between the lengths of the first and second toes and/or the first toe height ratio. This makes it possible to select shoes which provide a high degree of satisfaction to the customer.

④ Cited Reference 6 discloses use of the fit property of a shoe and customer's preference as correction data. However, it does not teach what data form correction data in association with the fit property and the customer's preference.

On the other hand, the inventions of Claim 6 and 7 of the present application concretely teach the data (foot length, foot girth, the difference between the lengths of the first and second toes, and first toe height ratio) associated with the fit property and the customer's preference. This enables selection of shoes which provide a high degree of satisfaction to the customer.

⑤ Cited Reference 3 discloses use of data on first toe side angle for

designing a last, but does not teach what data are associated with the data on the first toe side angle.

On the other hand, the invention of Claim 9 of the present application concretely teaches the data (first-second toe length difference) associated with the first toe side angle. Thereby, selection of shoes which provide a high degree of satisfaction to the customer becomes possible.

⑥ Cited References 7 and 8 disclose use of the oblique type shoes, but do not teach what data are associated with the oblique type.

In contrast with this, the inventions of Claim 10 to 12 of the present application concretely teach the data (the range of the angle of inward inclination of the first toe and the difference between the lengths of the first and second toes) associated with the oblique type. This enables selection of shoes which provide a high degree of satisfaction to the customer.

(5) Applicant respectfully requests that the unobviousness of the inventions of Claims 1 to 12 of this application be accepted for the above reasons.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/005169

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
Int.Cl⁷ A43D1/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int.Cl⁷ A43D1/00-1/08

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1922-1996 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2004

Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2004 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2004

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	JP 2000-90272 A (Hitachi Zosen Corp., Hitachi Zosen Joho System Kabushiki Kaisha), 31 March, 2000 (31.03.00), Full text; Figs. 1 to 12 (Family: none)	1-12
Y	JP 5-506369 A (Foot Image Technology, Inc.), 22 September, 1993 (22.09.93), Full text; Figs. 1 to 67 & WO 91/17676 A1 & US 5195030 A & EP 531289 A	1-12
Y	JP 2003-52416 A (Sanyo Electric Co., Ltd.), 25 February, 2003 (25.02.03), Full text; Figs. 1 to 9 (Family: none)	1-12

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
23 June, 2004 (23.06.04)Date of mailing of the international search report
13 July, 2004 (13.07.04)Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/005169

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	JP 2002-177015 A (Hisayo ISHIMARU), 25 June, 2002 (25.06.02), Full text; Figs. 1 to 12 (Family: none)	1-12
Y	JP 61-99801 A (Takeshi OTSUKA), 17 May, 1986 (17.05.86), Page 2, lower left column, lines 1 to 5 (Family: none)	2
Y	JP 2002-199905 A (Kabushiki Kaisha Hyumekkusuu), 16 July, 2002 (16.07.02), Full text; Figs. 1 to 4 (Family: none)	6, 7
Y	JP 8-66205 A (Yugen Kaisha Hoyo Kenkyusho), 12 March, 1996 (12.03.96), Full text; Figs. 1 to 8 (Family: none)	10-12
Y	Microfilm of the specification and drawings annexed to the request of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 162656/1982 (Laid-open No. 66405/1984) (Kazuya ENDO, Hiroko ITO), 04 May, 1984 (04.05.84), Full text; Figs. 1 to 2 (Family: none)	10-12